

CLAIMS

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

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A window frame comprising:

a first frame half;

a second frame half that may be positioned in either a ship orientation or an install orientation with respect to said first frame half;

10 first connector means for releasably interconnecting said first and second frame halves when said second frame half is in either the ship orientation or the install orientation; and

second connector means for securely interconnecting said first and second frame halves only when said second frame half is in the install orientation.

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15 A window frame as defined in claim 1 wherein both of said first connector means are integrally formed with said first and second frames halves.

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A window frame as defined in claim wherein said first and second frame halves are identical to one another.

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A window frame as defined in claim 1 wherein said second connector means includes a barb and a keeper.

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A window frame as defined in claim 4 wherein said barb and said keeper are capable of interlocking at a plurality of relative axial positions.

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5 A window frame as defined in claim 1 wherein said first connector means includes friction fitting components.

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A window frame comprising:

a first frame half;

10 a second frame half;

first connector means integral with at least one of said first and second frame halves for releasably interconnecting said first and second frame halves; and

second connector means integral with at least one of said first and second frame halves for securely interconnecting said first and second frame halves.

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15 A window frame as defined in claim 7 wherein:

said second frame half has a ship orientation and an install orientation with respect to said first frame half; and

20 said second connector means is operative only when said second frame is in said install orientation.

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A window frame as defined in claim 7 wherein said first and second frame halves are identical to one another.

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A window frame as defined in claim 7 wherein said second connector means includes a barb and a keeper.

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A window frame as defined in claim 7 wherein said barb and said keeper are capable of interlocking at a plurality of relative axial positions.

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A window frame as defined in claim 7 wherein said first connector means includes friction fitting components.

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A window frame comprising:

a first frame half including a plurality of barbs integrally formed with said first frame half; and

a second frame half including a plurality of receivers integrally formed with said second frame half, said second frame half having both a ship orientation and an install orientation with respect to said first frame half, each of said receivers receiving one of said barbs only when said second frame half is in the install orientation to securely interconnect said first and second frame halves.

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A window frame as defined in claim 13 wherein said barbs and keepers are capable of interlocking at a plurality of relative axial positions.

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A window frame as defined in claim 13 further comprising first connector means for releasably interconnecting said first and second frame halves in both said ship orientation and said install orientation.

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A window frame as defined in claim 15 wherein said first connector means is integrally formed with at least one of said first and second frame halves.

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10 A window frame as defined in claim 13 wherein said first and second frame halves are identical to one another.

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A window frame comprising:

a first frame half;

15 a second frame half having a ship orientation and an install orientation with respect to said first frame half;

first connector means for releasably interconnecting said first and second frame halves when the second frame half is in either the ship orientation or the install orientation, said first connector means including first and second portions integrally formed with said first and second frame halves, respectively; and

20 second connector means for essentially permanently interconnecting said first and second frame halves only when said second frame half is in the install orientation, said second means being inoperative when said second frame half is in the ship orientation, said second

connector means including first and second portions integrally formed with said first and second frame halves, respectively.

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A window frame as defined in claim 18 wherein said first and second frame
5 halves are identical to one another.